

Psalm 103:1-4; Psalm 86:3-5

God is loving and compassionate!

Cultivating a spiritual hunger and thirst for God requires a fresh vision of the person of God.

Praise and longing for God erupted from David's heart when he saw God's lovingkindness and compassion.

When you see God's lovingkindness and compassion, your heart will erupt with praise and longing for God.

Francois Fenelon in "The Seeking Heart" asks the question: "To just read the Bible, attend church, and avoid 'big sins' – is this passionate, wholehearted love for God?"

Outline:

1. When you see God, you are inspired to worship and praise!

• **God is love 1 John 4:8**

hesed – God's covenant love, loyal, faithful

compassion – God's deep, tender love **Racham** (07355) Racham refers to compassion which stirs one's emotions (like a parent for their child - see below). Racham expresses a deep and tender feeling of compassion

I consider the following to be a good, working definition of hesed: the consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly-pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, furious love of our Father God! Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB95) The Lord appeared to him from afar, *saying*, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

"I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, According to all that the Lord has granted us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has granted them according to His compassion And according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses." (Isaiah 63:7, NASB95)

"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:5-6, NASB95)

"but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:24, NASB95)

"Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;" (Deuteronomy 7:9, NASB95)

Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise Thee. (Ps 63:3)

• **God's love acts**

- He pardons
- He heals
- He redeems

- He crowns

When you love God you naturally run to him.

2. When you see God, you are impacted in practical ways!

- You are motivated to forgive others because of how much you have been forgiven.
- You are motivated to minister to others because of God's ministry to you.
- You are motivated to reach out to others because God has rescued you.